

Appl. No. 09/835,898
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 22 April 2003

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REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-3 and 6-13 are pending in the application.

Applicant(s) thank(s) the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

The Office action objects to claim 3 for ending with too many periods. Claim 3 is amended to remove the excess period. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 3 is respectfully requested.

The Office action rejects claim 5 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is moot, claims 4 and 5 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter.

The Office action objects to claims 5-8, 12, and 13 as depending from a rejected based claim. However, the Examiner states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form etc. Applicant's thank the Examiner for this indication of patentable subject matter. Claim 5 is canceled and its patentable subject matter is incorporated into claim 1. Claims 6, 7, and 12 are rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and claim 13 depends from claim 12. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 6-8, 12, and 13 is respectfully requested.

The Office action rejects claims 1-4 and 9-11 under 35 USC § 102(b). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 4 is canceled. Claims 1-3 are patentable because the features of claims 4 and 5 are added to claim 1, making it the equivalent of original claim 5 that the Examiner states would be patentable in independent form. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC § 102(b) rejection of claim 1, and of claims 2, 3, and 9, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 (and its dependent claim 11) are patentable at least because the cited reference does not teach to suggest the unique combination of features of

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claim 10 including a region-wise optically modified cholesteric liquid crystalline layer, comprising at least one single-film layer including a plurality of regions having cholesterically ordered material, in which pitches of the cholesterically ordered material of the plurality of regions differ from one another. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC § 102(b) rejection of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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